

INFANT-ONLY CHILD SAFETY SEATS

NEVER use a rear-facing infant seat in a vehicle front seat equipped with a passenger air bag. The air bag could cause severe injury and even death to a child.

To Use an Infant-Only Safety Seat Correctly:

- Use an infant seat that is federally approved for use in a vehicle and conforms to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. An approved seat will have a label on it stating it is certified for use in motor vehicles.
- The seat must always face the rear of the car. This protects the infant's fragile head and neck. The infant should ride rear-facing until one year old and at least 20 pounds.
- The seat should be semi-reclined so the baby's head does not flop forward. This is important to maintain an open airway.
- Infant seats should be securely anchored in the vehicle with the vehicle's safety belt. The seat should not move more than one inch from side to side, or back and forth.
- The infant should be snugly fastened in the safety seat with the harness straps. Keep the straps in the slots at or below the baby's shoulders. Adjust the harness to fit snugly over shoulders and between the legs.
- The plastic harness clip should be securely fastened and placed at armpit level on the child to keep the straps in place.
- The safest place for all children is the back seat. The middle of the back seat is recommended if the safety seat will fit there because it is the farthest point from impact in a crash.
- Always read the manufacturer's directions for the car seat and also the vehicle owner's manual for installation tips.



- The seat must be destroyed and replaced if involved in a crash. Child car seats are designed to be used in only one crash.
- Never purchase or use a second-hand car seat if you are unsure of its history.

What is Michigan's Safety Belt Law?



- Children under the age of four must be restrained in a car safety seat in the front and rear seat.
- 4 - 16 years in a safety belt in the front and rear seat.
- 16 years and older in a safety belt in the front seat. A safety belt is recommended, but not required in the rear seat.

What is the Next Step?



A convertible seat or toddler seat – for children from about 20 to 40 pounds. Keep your child rear-facing until he or she is at least one year old and 20 pounds. Always follow the manufacturer's weight recommendations. If a child reaches 20 pounds before one year, switch to a convertible seat with a higher rear-facing weight limit.

*For more information,
please contact the
Office of Highway Safety Planning
at 517/333-5318
or the National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration's
Auto Safety Hotline at
1-800-424-9393.*